

The INTERCHANGE

Monthly Newsletter for State Employees Prepared by State Employees



Kernan Looks Ahead in State of State Address, Sees Bright Future for Indiana

Governor says top priority is job growth; Indiana@Work, Early Learning Trust initiatives highlighted

Gov. Joe Kernan used his first State of the State address on Tuesday, January 13, to outline his vision for the future of Indiana – an optimistic vision focused on creating jobs and business development.

Speaking in the House of Representatives chamber, before both houses of the Indiana General Assembly, the governor praised the bi-partisan economic development efforts that resulted from the last two legislative sessions, before announcing his next step: the “**Indiana@Work**” program.

“My priority is to create jobs,” Kernan said. “I will not stop looking for ways to create jobs, grow our economy and make life better for all Hoosiers.”

“A key element in doing this is helping workers advance their skills to find good-paying jobs,” the governor said. “Indiana@Work will use existing funds to train more workers, better assess their skills and match them with available jobs.”

“Our goal is to give every Hoosier the opportunity to get a job or get training for a better job,” Kernan added.

In his address, the governor told the assembled legislators that good business sense dictates that better education leads to better jobs. He reiterated his **Early Learning Trust** initiative, unveiled last week to broad support from educators.

“Under this program, every Hoosier child will have access to voluntary full-day kindergarten by 2007,” Kernan said. “Indiana will also develop pilot programs for early learning opportunities for at-risk children across the state.”

“Early education is a sound and necessary investment in our future. I have identified the resources to fund this investment in our future without raising taxes. I will work with you to get this job done for our children,” Kernan said, addressing legislators directly.

Gov. Kernan also said that it’s Indiana’s “solemn responsibility” to protect our children from harm. To that end, he announced that he will be creating, by executive order, the independent **State Child Protection Task Force** to investigate situations concerning seriously endangered children.

“We must never forget that our ultimate goal is to ensure that every Hoosier child is given the chance to grow up safe and healthy,” Kernan said. “We must all work together to guarantee the safety of Indiana children. Anything less is unacceptable.”

Turning his attention to the state’s fiscal stability, the governor emphasized that the state is in relatively good shape, due to a deficit management plan and controlled spending, while other states have been forced to make critical cuts in essential services and programs. He said he does not intend to ask the legislature to re-open the current budget.

However, as the governor continued to look ahead in his address, he called for a **line item veto** “to protect taxpayers from unnecessary and unaffordable spending.”

“Forty-three governors already have some form of line item veto. It is time for Indiana to use this tool to help keep us fiscally sound,” Kernan said, again urging legislators to act on his proposal.

In addition to the authority to use a line item veto, the governor announced yet another effort to make sure the state is spending its money wisely and efficiently: the **Peak Performance Project**, led by Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis.

“The Peak Performance Project is focused on answering this question: how should government be structured to ensure that Hoosiers get what they need in a way that’s effective and cost-efficient?” Kernan said. “Whatever service we provide must fully meet the needs of our customers – the people of Indiana.”

Acknowledged guests in Gov. Kernan’s first State of the State speech included Lt. Col. Ivan Denton of Indianapolis and Command Sgt. Maj. John Runge of Fort Wayne, representing the Indiana National Guard’s 293rd infantry battalion – the first guard unit since the Korean War to receive the Combat Infantry Badge.

Eva Kor was also invited and on hand for the address. Kor’s CANDLE museum in Terre Haute was destroyed by an arsonist late last year. Its unique vision shared with visitors the experiences of children used in Nazi medical experiments. The governor cited her courage and commitment to rebuilding the museum as representative of “who we are” as Hoosiers.

Judy O’Bannon, wife of the late Gov. Frank O’Bannon, attended the address at the governor’s invitation, as well. A chair was left empty in the chamber in honor of Gov. O’Bannon, who died exactly four months prior to January 13th’s State of the State address.

“No matter how great the loss we feel, Gov. O’Bannon’s life – so full of optimism, vision and his genuine love of Indiana – will be with us always,” Kernan said.

Benefits of Quitting Smoking Start Immediately, Last a Lifetime

Has it been 20 minutes since your last cigarette? If so, you're already starting to feel the benefits of a tobacco-free lifestyle. With every passing minute, month and year, a new non-smoker sees and feels health benefits that will last a lifetime. Quitting an addictive habit is a tough thing to do, so these pending improvements can serve as benchmark goals on the path to a smoke-free lifestyle.

Within 20 minutes after quitting, your blood pressure returns to the level prior to the last cigarette, and the temperature of your feet and hands increases to its standard level. Within 8 hours of quitting, the amount of carbon monoxide coursing through your bloodstream drops to normal.

Only one day after your final cigarette, your chance of having a heart attack starts to drop significantly.

In a matter of weeks, your circulation improves and your lung function increases by up to 30%. After a few months, you can expect to see a decided decline in coughing, congestion, shortness of breath, and fatigue. Around the same time, cilia (the tiny hair-like structures inside your lungs) regain normal function, which leads to cleaner lungs and a reduced risk of infection. One year after the final cigarette, the excess risk of coronary heart disease is cut in half. As the years roll on, your

risk of stroke, cancer and heart disease will rapidly move down toward the levels enjoyed by non-smokers.

Some of the additional rewards will be more visible. Quitting smoking helps stop the damaging effects of tobacco on your appearance including bad breath, stained teeth, yellow fingernails and premature wrinkling. Your hair and clothes will smell better, food will taste better and two flights of stairs will no longer leave you gasping for air.

If the benefits to your body aren't enough, then consider the benefits to your bank account. A recent study shows that if you quit a pack-a-day habit today and start wisely investing your cigarette costs, in 30 years you'll have an additional quarter-of-a-million dollars to spend on your healthy self!

Facts about tobacco use and its effects on Indiana state employees will appear monthly in *The Interchange* through a partnership between the Indiana State Personnel Department and the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Agency.

For more information or if you or a loved one needs help quitting smoking, call 866-515-5433 or visit www.WhiteLies.tv.

You Can Do It Too!

State Personnel Department (SPD) Director D. Sue Roberson and six other SPD executives have joined together in a commitment to quit smoking in 2004. Throughout the year, *The Interchange* will check in with members of this new smoke-free alliance to monitor their progress.

"I love to smoke," Roberson admits. But while huddled with a group of smoking co-workers at a recent team retreat, she realized just how crazy her habit had become. It was then the group decided that if they smoked as a team then surely they could quit as a team.



D. Sue Roberson, SPD Director

Like nearly 90% of adult smokers in the U.S., Roberson started smoking as a teen. Now, she hopes to encourage her children to choose a different path. As a single parent, she understands the paramount importance of maintaining her own health for the benefit of her family. But she also has personal reasons for lengthening her life span.

"I want to live a long time and wear a red dress and a purple hat and be able to say and do whatever I want because I'm 'just an old woman,'" joked Roberson. "I don't want to miss those years!"

DNR's New Retail Experience: Mother Nature's Mercantile

Outside your door, it might look like *Mother Nature* and all of her elements are lying dormant for the winter, but... *Mother Nature's Mercantile* is in full bloom.

Mother Nature's Mercantile is the Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) new retail experience, and she is budding. Her job and goal is to provide keepsake memories for visitors to our State by providing unique merchandise that reflects the history, nature, and beauty of our State Parks and Inns.

This fall has been busy for *Mother Nature*, as we introduced her to the Internet and opened up a new location.

Mother's Internet site hosts over 100 items including apparel, rustic furnishings, gifts, and books. Her website makes it easy for you to stay out of the elements, and shop in the warmth and comfort of your home. She is also proud to announce that DNR Director John Goss has agreed to model one of her Smokey Bear sweatshirts, and she thanks him!

Mother's Nature's Mercantile also opened a smaller enterprise, in the Indiana Government Center South's room W-160 (The Customer Service Center) last November. She was there for the past holiday season, and helped many of you with your last minute gift giving. She will continue to support Indiana made products, along with a selection of her best sellers from all seven State Park Inn Gift Shops. So please remember her for any of those last minute gifts you may need to purchase.

Mother will be appearing at the following events in 2004, so plan to stop by: Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show, Indiana State Fairgrounds (Blue Ribbon Pavilion) - February 20-29; Earth Day, Downtown Indianapolis at the American Legion Mall - April 24; Indiana State Fair, Indiana State Fairgrounds (in the DNR Building) - August 11-22; The Country's Best Log and Timber Home Show, Indiana State Fairgrounds - October 1-3.

Visit *Mother Nature's Mercantile* online at www.INDIANAINNS.COM and in Room W-160 in the Indiana Government Center South Building.

State Employee Night with the Indianapolis Ice

Join the Indianapolis Ice at the Pepsi Coliseum on Saturday, February 7th at 7pm for "State Employee Night" as we throw an Island Party! Hear a live reggae band, participate in our limbo contest or take your chance to win a Caribbean vacation! Tickets are just \$10 or \$5 (Reg. \$15 or \$10). One lucky state employee in attendance will win an autographed jersey from the Ice! To order your tickets call Rob Lower at 317-925-4423 x210 or

to order on-line, visit <http://www.indianapolisice.com/new/statepassword.htm> and enter the password "Indiana". You may also use the order form below to purchase tickets.

****Note:** tickets must be ordered in advance either via phone, on-line, or by mail to receive this discounted price.

STATE EMPLOYEE NIGHT WITH THE ICE!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7th

INDIANAPOLIS ICE

VS.

FORT WORTH BRAHMAS

GAME TIME: 7:00

PEPSI COLISEUM

**Discounted tickets just:
\$10 or \$5**

- It's Island Party Night with the Ice with
- Discounted tickets for state employees and their family and friends!
- Come join the reggae Band, limbo dancers and our Rastafarian Fire eater!
- Wear your best beach wear and join in the fun! Don't miss your chance to win a Caribbean Vacation!
- To order tickets: mail in the order form or call Rob at the Ice: (317) 925-4423 x210.
- Discount not available at the door.



ARE YOU TOUGH ENOUGH?

ORDER FORM:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Day Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Number of tickets at \$10 _____

Number of tickets at \$5 _____

Total Due: \$ _____ Payment: Check MC VISA

Account #: _____

Exp. Date: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: INDIANAPOLIS ICE
SEND TO: 1202 EAST 38TH STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46205
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL ROB: (317) 925-4423 x210

State Employee Nights with the Pacers



State Employee Nights with the Pacers are:

March 17, 2004 - Pacers vs. Portland

April 9, 2004 - Pacers vs. New Jersey



1. Log onto www.ConsecoFieldhouse.com/group.
2. Click on the Indiana State Employee Night of your choice.
3. Enter the State Employee ID (INSE).
4. Make a ticket selection.
5. Fill out the purchase information.

NOTE If you do not have internet access, you are able to purchase tickets over the phone. Please call Tammy Bush at (317) 917-2824 IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET.

Black History Month Events

The Indiana State Library will be hosting four events during February to celebrate Black History Month. All events are free and open to the public; we do request that you pre-register by calling (317) 232-3689 or e-mailing genealogy@statelib.lib.in.us.

On February 4 and February 19, there will be genealogy orientation tours of the building beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 11:00 a.m.. Also on February 4, Wilma Gibbs from the Indiana Historical Society will provide a free workshop on beginning your African American genealogy research. The workshop will begin at 4:00 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. On February 18, Hollis Thomas from the Indiana African American Genealogy Group will provide a free workshop on organizing a family reunion. It will begin at 4:00 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m.

For more information, call the Genealogy Division of the State Library at (317) 232-3689.



Artwork provided by Jerry Williams,
State Personnel Department.

TRAINING PROGRAMS March 2004

Date	Time	Class	Cost
2	9:00 - 3:00	CLER Review Session** (Restricted enrollment)	Free
10	9:00 - 3:00	Diversity in the Workplace	Free
16	9:00 - 12:00	Selection & Interviewing	Free
17	1:00 - 3:30	Hoosier S.T.A.R.T. "Distribution Options"	Free
18	9:00 - 4:00	How to Investigate Complaints of Discrimination**	Free
23	8:30 - 1:00	Driver Improvement Program	Free*
25	9:00 - 12:00	Affirmative Action Plan Monitoring Report Training**	Free

NOTE: All classes will be held in the State Training Center except where noted.

**These classes are only offered to SUPERVISOR/MANAGERS AND/OR HUMAN RESOURCES PERSONNEL.

*Free for State of Indiana employees only.

Classes that require a fee are noted. Obtain your supervisor's approval to attend.

For more information or to register, you will need to contact your agency training contact person (ATCP).

Please visit <http://www.in.gov/jobs/training&development/0homepag.htm> to check for calendar updates before registering.

IDOC Employee Wins Distinguished Service Award

Mr. Kevin M. Jackson, the Director of Emergency Response Operations for the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC), was awarded in September with the 2003 International Police Work Dog Association (IPWDA) Award. Mr. Jackson, is responsible for the oversight of IDOC's K-9 teams, Firearms, SERT, Cism, Personal Protection, Quick Response teams and Honor Guard throughout the Department Correction facilities in the State of Indiana. He is highly recognized and respected for his extensive knowledge dealing with security issues and his leadership provided in this critical field.

Police Work Dog Association. Mr. Jackson's ongoing commitment and dedication to the IPWDA.



Kevin M. Jackson, IDOC

Currently, IDOC includes six facilities as authorized K-9 facilities. Mr. Jackson's lobbying efforts have been instrumental in recommending and receiving approval for two new additional facilities, those being Miami Correctional Facility and New Castle Correctional Facility when funding becomes available. IDOC's current K-9 program consists of approximately 70 K-9 Handlers and 78 K-9s. An additional 26 K-9 teams will be added to the present seventy-eight (78) team force pending funds becoming available. In addition, Mr. Jackson continues to stress to IDOC leadership as to the continuing participation and membership in the IPWDA.

As the K-9 program Administrator for the Department of Correction, K-9 facilities, one of Mr. Jackson's initial priorities with IDOC's participation, assistance and support of the International

SHURGARD

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Email: karys@shurgard.com



INDIANA STATE EMPLOYEES

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FREE of equal or lesser value
(valued up to \$10.99)

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Indiana
locations

* Not valid with any other discounts, coupons or on carry-out.
* Coupon cannot be combined with the Perks Card 10% off offer.
* One coupon per table, per visit. Present coupon to server upon ordering.
* Not redeemable for cash.
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